## USAWC STRATEGY RESEARCH PROJECT

# THE TERRORISM THREAT AND COUNTERING TERRORISM FROM JORDANIAN PERSPECTIVE

by

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1. REPORT DATE 30 MAR 2007		2. REPORT TYPE  Student Research	Project	3. DATES COVERED <b>00-00-2006 to 00-00-2007</b>			
4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE			5a. CONTRACT NUMBER				
Terrorism Threat and Countering Terrorism from Jordanian Perspective				5b. GRANT NUMBER			
				5c. PROGRAM ELEMENT NUMBER			
6. AUTHOR(S)				5d. PROJECT NUMBER			
Mohammad Jaradat					5e. TASK NUMBER		
					5f. WORK UNIT NUMBER		
7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)  U.S. Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, Carlisle, PA,17013-5050					8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER		
9. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)  10. SPONSOR/MONITOR				IONITOR'S ACRONYM(S)			
					11. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S REPORT NUMBER(S)		
12. DISTRIBUTION/AVAII Approved for publ	ABILITY STATEMENT ic release; distribut	ion unlimited					
13. SUPPLEMENTARY NO	OTES						
14. ABSTRACT <b>See attached.</b>							
15. SUBJECT TERMS							
		18. NUMBER OF PAGES	19a. NAME OF RESPONSIBLE PERSON				
a. REPORT unclassified	b. ABSTRACT <b>unclassified</b>	c. THIS PAGE unclassified	Same as Report (SAR)	21	RESI ONSIDEL I ERSON		

**Report Documentation Page** 

Form Approved OMB No. 0704-0188

#### **ABSTRACT**

AUTHOR: Colonel Mohammad S. Jaradat

TITLE: The Terrorism Threat and Countering Terrorism from Jordanian

Perspective

FORMAT: Strategy Research Project

DATE: 29 March 2007 WORD COUNT: 6313 PAGES: 21

KEY TERMS: Middle East,

CLASSIFICATION: Unclassified

The terrorist attack on 11 September 2001 shook the entire world. Terrorism is a threat, and it is the enemy of all faiths and communities: Its main tools include murder, extortion, intimidation, and spreading fear and anxiety. Moreover it has become an especially influential element in international relations. It remains a source of concern for those who yearn to live in stability and peace. Jordan has experienced different kinds of terrorism throughout the last few decades, and the Jordanian experience may provide important insights of the best ways to fight terrorism. As member of the international campaign against terrorism, Jordan is playing an active role in the United State - led Global War on Terrorism (GWOT) internally and externally.

This paper will focus on terrorism as an internal and external threat. It will review the strategic environment (international, regional, and local), and find the answers on the most important terrorism issues effecting the Jordanian national security environment. This paper will also consider the efforts (policies and strategies) Jordan has applied and is using to counter terrorism.

As part of the discussion, I will highlight the Amman Message of November 2004, regarding the misunderstanding of the connection between Islam and the terms used by extremists. This paper will also analyze the environment and the external and internal factors affecting the terrorism threat conclude with the Jordanian perspective on countering terrorism, and will offer recommendations which may enhance this effort against terrorism.

# THE TERRORISM THREAT AND COUNTERING TERRORISM FROM JORDANIAN PERSPECTIVE

Jordan does not bow to coercion. We will not be intimidated into altering our position, nor will we abandon our convictions or forfeit our role in the fight against terrorism in all its forms. To the contrary, every act of terrorism strengthens our resolve to adhere to our convictions, and to confront, with all means at our disposal, those who seek to undermine the security and stability of this country<sup>1</sup>.

—King Abdullah II, King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan Address to the Nation November 10, 2005

Terrorism is an international phenomenon that encompasses most regions of the world. Terrorism has also become the focus of daily news. Most often on daily mass media means, we hear, read or see acts of assassination, kidnapping, hijacking, bombing or shooting taking place in the world. Opposition groups to governments or to other organizations commit terrorist actions by use of violence against civilians and properties for political, ethnic, and/or religious reasons. Terrorists have employed new techniques that increase the rate of killings among innocent people in order to execute their strategy. The 9/11 attacks in New York and Washington, D.C. marked a new era of modern terrorism which mobilized the U.S. government to take all possible measures to fight this phenomenon through political, economic and military means in an endeavor to uproot it from the world.

The international community faces the great difficulty for political, ideological and legal reasons, to find specifically define terrorism. Consequently, the international community cannot devise and implement a uniformly applicable and universally followed mechanism for fighting international terrorism. Although individual nation-states and international alliances or coalitions can generally agree on what terrorism is, there are several and important differences in the legal definition of the term and its application. For example, although the United States and the European Union (EU) member states are partners in fighting international terrorism, the legal approach, strategies, and tactics often differ.

Jordan is an active member of the international network to combat terrorism. Jordan has a declared policy that terrorism is not acceptable and should not be permitted to grow or prosper. Jordan has expressed the position that terrorism should achieve no political victory and ultimately should be defeated. International and regional cooperation and intelligence sharing are, in the Jordanian perspective, the keys to defeat terrorism, as the use of military power, by itself, is not the right answer. Jordan has adopted a consistent policy to combat

terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and is working with all its strength not to harbor any terrorist groups and show any leniency with any terrorism attempts. In the area of cooperation with other countries, Jordan works for the collection and exchange of information with all states to combat terrorism and deprive it from its sources of support.

#### Background

As a result of the 9/11 tragedy, the U.S. Administration accused some countries and organizations in the Middle East of providing support or shelter to terrorist groups who vowed to terrorize the world with a pretext of fighting for the cause of Islam. Yet, most Muslims all over the world condemned those attacks as actions not with the Islamic religious faith, ethics and norms. President Bush said after the attack, "This group and its leader...a person named Osama bin Laden...are linked to many other organizations in different countries, including the Egyptian Islamic Jihad and the Islamic movement of Uzbekistan. They are recruited from their own nations and neighborhoods and brought to camps in places like Afghanistan, where they are trained in the tactics of terror. They are sent back to their homes or sent to hide in countries around the world to plot evil and destruction."

The U.S. government provides Congress each year with a report listing all countries that sponsor and provide support to international terrorism as well as to terrorist organizations and their sources of income, their intentions and aims. In 2001, after 9/11, the U.S. government's list included seven states in the Middle East, South America and Asia that support or sponsor terrorism: Cuba, Iran, Iraq, Libya, Syria, North Korea and Sudan.<sup>3</sup>

Generally speaking, the international terrorism threat to the world and to U.S. interests in particular, can be divided into three types: the extremist international jihad movement, traditional, clearly defined terrorist organizations, and state sponsors of international terrorism.<sup>4</sup>

The most serious international terrorist threat today stems from Islamic extremist groups such as Osama bin Laden and members and supporters of the al-Qaeda organization. Al-Qaeda leaders had been sheltered in Afghanistan since 1996 by the extremist Islamic regime of the Taliban. Extremist Islamic elements entered Afghanistan in the 1980s during the *jihad* against the Soviet invasion and occupation of Afghanistan. The al-Qaeda organization's has the desire and the capability to direct large-scale violence and destruction against U.S. persons and interests as it demonstrated during the September 11, 2001 attack, the bombing of the U.S. Navy ship USS Cole in October 2000 in Aden, Yemen, and the bombing of two U.S. Embassies in East Africa in August 1998.

## <u>Definition of Terrorism</u>

Terrorism is not new, and even though it has been used since the beginning of recorded history it can be relatively hard to define. There is no precise and clear agreed upon definition of terrorism. Definitions of terrorism that largely rely on topical conditions or transient situations often lead to the inconsistent definition of terrorism as a concept and of terrorist activities as the means for reaching a particular goal. These inconsistencies often lead to contradictory results and the development and application of different standards in evaluating whether non-state groups, persons, and nation-states are involved in terrorism.

Many Jordanians agrees with President Bush that is the use of force or threat of its use of to inflect harm and damage particular or about others and destroy property, violence against a particular group or a person is an inherent ingredient in the concept and definition of terrorism. Such use of violence may be actual or can be threatened so that it can exert moral and psychological pressure in different ways on its intended target and affect the target's behavior.

Terrorism is non-traditional and one of the greatest threats facing the world at present and the future, Terrorism is used as a means to achieving political goals through the use of violence. The use of terrorism has caused great disparity in formulating an international and universally applicable definition of terrorism since what a party, entity, or group considers terrorism someone else considers it as a legitimate resistance or liberation action or movement (a terrorist is someone else's freedom fighter). Even within the U.S. Government, agencies responsible for different functions in the current fight against terrorism use different definitions. The U.S Department of Defense defines terrorism as "the calculated use of unlawful violence or threat of unlawful violence to inculcate fear; intended to coerce or to intimidate governments or societies in the pursuit of goals that are generally political, religious, or ideological". 5 Within this definition, there are three key elements—violence, fear, and intimidation—and each element produce terror in its victims. The FBI uses this definition: "Terrorism is the unlawful use of force and violence against persons or property to intimidate or coerce a government, the civilian population, or any segment thereof, in furtherance of political or social objectives." The U.S. Department of State defines "terrorism" to be "premeditated politically-motivated violence perpetrated against non-combatant targets by sub-national groups or clandestine agents, usually intended to influence an audience."6

The United Nations produced this definition in 1992: "An anxiety-inspiring method of repeated violent action, employed by (semi-) clandestine individual, group or state actors, for idiosyncratic, criminal or political reasons, whereby - in contrast to assassination - the direct targets of violence are not the main targets." The most commonly accepted academic definition

starts with the U.N. definition quoted above. The British Government definition of 1974 is "...the use of violence for political ends, and includes any use of violence for the purpose of putting the public, or any section of the public, in fear."

The Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) has presented terrorism definition in it summit in 2002 " the definition of the term terrorism is wide and encompasses certain ambiguous and sometimes political concepts, thus adding to the difficulty in applying and enforcing the convention. According to Article 1.1 which defines the term, terrorism has the following elements<sup>8</sup>:

- It is any act of violence, or threat thereof, not withstanding its motives or intentions;
- It has to be perpetrated to carry out an individual or collective criminal plane; and it aims at:
- Terrorizing people or threatening to harm them or imperiling their lives, honor, freedom, security or rights;
- Exposing the environment of facility or public or private property to hazards or occupying or seizing them;
- Endangering a national resources or international facilities; or
- Threatening the stability, territorial integrity, political unity or sovereignty of independent state,

The compound "Islamic fiqh" has presented a terrorism definition during its summit in January 4, 2002 which including a group of scientists as" terrorism is aggression exercised by the individuals or groups or states a on the man kind Rights (his religion and blood and nerves and his property and vulnerable), and that includes sorts of intimidation and harm, threats and aims to sow terror among people or intimidates or endangering the lives or liberty or security in danger, and is considered to cause damage to the environment or with one of utilities and public property or private or exposing one of national resources or natural-risk and murder unjustifiably and blocking the way terrorism and affirmed scientists that Jihad can not be linked to terrorism and stressed that Jihad in Islam proceeded defending the fatherland against occupation and plunder of wealth, and against the settler colonialism, which leaves people from their homes."

His Majesty the Late King Hussein once said, "Terrorism is not the ultimate sacrifice. The killing of innocent people is not Jihad. Jihad in the service of faith requires respect for human life, and respect for treaties and charters. Islam strictly forbids the killing of civilians" Terrorism is a criminal act that influences an audience beyond the immediate victim. The strategy of terrorists is to commit acts of violence that .draw the attention of the local populace, the government, and the world to their cause. The terrorists plan their attack to obtain the greatest

publicity, choosing targets that symbolize what they oppose. The effectiveness of the terrorist act lies not in the act itself, but in the public's or government's reaction to the act.

#### Jordan and the International Resolutions on Counter Terrorism

The International community has made progress in facing the terrorism threat, including Geneva Convention for the Prevention of Terrorism in 1937 and the European Convention in 1977, and made several later attempts. In the General Assembly resolution 51/210 in 17 December 1996, established an ad hoc committee to elaborate legal instruments dealing with the prevention and suppression of inter national terrorism. That also was followed by another work resulted, International convention for suppression of terrorism bombing in 1997, International convention for suppression of the financing of terrorism in 1999, and pursuant to resolution draft 54/110 International convention for suppression of nuclear terrorism<sup>11</sup>. There is a clear need for the cooperation of different countries for the extradition of terrorists and not accepting as refugees politicians who have committed acts of oppression and terrorism in a certain country and then seek refuge in another nation-state. In the wake of the 11 September 2001 terrorist attacks in the United States, the United Nations Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 1373, which, among its provisions, obliges all States to criminalize assistance for terrorist activities, deny financial support and safe haven to terrorists and share information about groups planning terrorist attacks<sup>12</sup>.

The 15-member United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) was established at the same time to monitor implementation of the resolution. While the ultimate aim of the Committee is to increase the ability of states to fight terrorism, it is not a sanctions body nor does it maintain a list of terrorist organizations or individuals<sup>13</sup>.

Seeking to revitalize the Committee's work, in 2004 the Security Council adopted resolution 1535 creating the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) to provide the CTC with expert advice on all areas covered by UNSC Resolution 1373. CTED was established also with the aim of facilitating technical assistance to countries, as well as promoting closer cooperation and coordination both within the UN system of organizations and among regional and intergovernmental bodies. In the September 2005 World Summit at the United Nations, the Security Council – meeting at the level of Heads of States or Government for just the third time in its history – adopted Resolution 1624 concerning incitement to commit acts of terrorism.. Jordan also signed the International Convention of the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism. Jordan is party to seven international treaties relevant to combating terrorism<sup>14</sup>:

- The Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, Including Diplomatic Agents.
- The International Convention against the Taking of Hostages.
- The Convention on Offences and Certain other Acts Committed Onboard Aircraft.
- The Convention for the suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft.
- The Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation.
- The Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts of Violence at Airports serving International Civil Aviation.
- The Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection

#### Jordan and the Regional Security Situation

The post-war Iraqi situation is a complex issue. Wide spectrums of political, geopolitical, cultural, economic and social factors sharply interact to constitute the current Iraqi picture. The Iraqi ethnic structure is regarded as the most dynamic factor in the country's political future, and more than 50 persons are being killed on the average every day, while the Baker-Hamilton Iraq Study Group Report is still discussed throughout the world. The latest report from the International Crisis Group examines the situation in Iraq and describes with necessary candor the magnitude of the Iraqi calamity. The Crisis Group endorses many of the Iraq Study Group Report key recommendations. "We are looking at Iraq's complete disintegration into failed-state chaos, threatening to drag down much of the region with it", says the International Crisis Group President Gareth Evans. "More troops in or out are not going to solve this. What is needed above all is a new multinational effort to achieve a new political compact between all relevant Iraqi players." Additionally he stated that "All Iraqi actors who, one way or another, are involved in the country's internecine violence must be brought to the negotiating table and pressed to accept the necessary compromises. That cannot be done without a concerted effort by all Irag's neighbors, which in turn cannot be done if their interests are not reflected in the final outcome. If Iraq can be saved at this late date, it will require three ambitious and interrelated steps which are:

- (1) A new forceful multilateral approach that puts real pressure on all Iraqi parties.
- (2) A conference of all Iraqi and international stakeholders to forge a new political compact.

(3) A new U.S. regional strategy, including engagement with Syria and Iran, end of efforts at regime change, revitalisation of the Arab-Israeli peace process and altered strategic goals."<sup>15</sup>

Jordan as a neighboring country to Iraq has been affected by the security situation in Iraq including an increased danger of terrorist's attacks. The Iraqi security situation has created multiple national security challenges for the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, that have included actual terrorist attacks, a large threat of increased terrorism within Jordanian territory, and the political and socioeconomic problems brought into Jordan through the influx of large numbers of Iraqi refugees fleeing the armed conflict in their own country. The Jordanian Government aggressively pursued the network of a terrorist Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, believed responsible for attacks in Jordan and Iraq, including the November 9, 2005 bombing of three hotels in Amman that killed 63 people and the August 19, 2005 rocket attack in Aqaba that also impacted Eilat, Israel. Jordan publicly condemned terrorist acts throughout the world, introduced heightened security measures, and began drafting new counterterrorism legislation. Jordanian security forces disrupted numerous terrorist plots during the year 2005, including several that targeted U.S. interests. Jordan's State security court, which oversees terrorism-related cases, processed.

Since post Iraq war there was and estimated Iraqi flooded number between 450,000 to 800,000 in jordan, and this Iraqi community will be possible threat in jordan, not only from terrorists attacks, like the one occurred in November 2005 but also economic tension have emerged, from access to health care and affordable housing to employment and education, <sup>16</sup>

The security situation and countering terrorism In Saudi Arabia is improving, the government has engaged in offensive operations against militants. After the December 6, 2004, attack on the U.S. Consulate in Jeddah and the December 29, 2004, suicide bombings at the Ministry of Interior and Emergency Special Forces Headquarters in Riyadh, Saudi security forces carried out numerous operations, including killing and capturing of dozens of militants linked to al-Qaeda. Jordan is keen to sustain the continued coordination and cooperation with neighboring countries to prevent the terrorists entry cross the borders, through coordination at the political level like the annual conference of Arab Ministers of the Interior, or the joint security committees between Jordan and neighboring countries, including Saudi Arabia, There is no doubt that the fight against terrorism in Saudi Arabia, or any other neighboring country serves strategy in the fight against terrorism in Jordan.

#### Weapons of Mass Destruction and Nuclear Terrorism

Despite the international efforts in the GWOT, it is highly uncertain if concrete progress has been made and whether the world has become a "safer place." Continuous conflicts especially in places such as Afghanistan and Iraq continue to supply the ranks of radical non-state groups that are willing to use conventional terrorism for the achievement of their political and ideological goals. These groups, including al-Qaeda, have demonstrated an interest in acquiring weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) for carrying out terrorist attacks. Considerable risks exist that such groups can acquire nuclear, biological or nuclear (NBC) weapons or the necessary materials, technologies, and technical know-how in developing and producing such WMDs. There are prospects for the success of the terrorists in stealing or obtaining nuclear warheads or uranium to build a simple nuclear weapon highly enriched and detonate it in a major city, which may cause the death of hundreds of thousands of innocent citizens.

The question arises in this context, the sources of these weapons and the most likely sources of terrorists gaining access to nuclear disarmament from them? The answer is that the Russia and North Korea, some former Soviet republics could provide this weapon to terrorists, and there are small bombs which have the capacity to a crack bridges and damage to important and easily forced many of these weapons on the back of armored vehicles and causing the damage to the required through them, and highlight North Korea which likely its ownership of a small number of the warheads which as a source of the smuggling of nuclear weapons but to a lesser degree. Which makes nuclear terrorism is possible that Al Qaeda made several attempts to obtain uranium in a good, and in the event if they are successful in this rule, it might result in threats and the risks of major terrorist.

Jordan's position against nuclear terrorism is characterized by a policy of moderation and advocacy to achieve security and world peace. Jordan signed the conventions on weapons of mass destruction, and Jordan is an active participant in the activities of the arms control and regional security and peacekeeping operations in the world. In addition to signing the peace treaty with Israel. Jordan calls for efforts to achieve a ban on weapons of mass destruction, and supports all serious attempts in this area including a New Middle East as a zone free of weapons of mass destruction. The danger nuclear terrorism for Jordan is the same as for the rest of the world. Jordan supports the policy directions calling for a halt to the proliferation of nuclear weapons and conventions binding on the nation-states for the non-proliferation of these weapons, and work to identify areas free of nuclear weapons especially in the Middle East.

## Jordanian Policy and Strategy for Counter Terrorism

Jordan is targeted because of its moderate policy pursued at home and abroad, its geographical location at the center of regional conflicts, and the terrorist's aim is to force Jordan to change it's vision to words regional and international issues; Jordan has a clear policy against terrorism. This policy constitutes a strong barrier for all attempts of terrorism, which are aimed at disrupting Jordanian national security, and threaten its foreign relations.

The Jordanian policy is centered on terrorism prevention. Influence on the sovereignty of resolution the national and influence on the internal security and stability, reduce the damage policy, economic and social and media in which terrorism should achieve to the minimum extent possible ascertain the failure to get terrorist organizations on the basis of work inside the Jordanian territories and lack of access to any political, material or moral inside Jordan the follow-up and prosecution of all elements and the evacuation of mandate of groups, organizations or active parties to support terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

Jordan is saving no effort in the area of cooperation and coordination with the countries of the world, for collection to information and exchange with all States and prevents any group for the work from the Jordanian territories against any other State being convinced of the importance of cooperation and concerted international efforts to fight terrorism. Jordan supported the Saudi initiative for the formation of a working group to study the establishment of a center for combating terrorism, at the same time supporting the Egyptian call for holding an international conference on terrorism, and called on everyone to find common strategies in the framework of the United Nations so as to deal with them effectively.

#### Counter Terrorism from the Jordanian Perspective

The Jordanian 'war on terrorism' policy is clear since the decades before September 11, 2001. After that date, the fight against terrorism has become a Jordanian national priority. Jordan is an active actor of the global war against terrorism, particularly in view of the last developments and unstable conditions in Palestine and Iraq, the rapid developments after the Israeli attack on Lebanon in July 2006, and the mutual Israeli-Palestinian violence.<sup>17</sup> The main directives and principles of the Jordanian war on terrorism (WOT) are:

- Terrorism is not acceptable; it should achieve no political victory, and ultimately should be defeated.
- No safe harbor must be available to terrorists.

 High level of international and regional cooperation and intelligence sharing are, in the Jordanian perspective, the keys to defeat terrorism, as the use of military power, by itself, is not the only means.

His Majesty King Abdullah II has pursued a war on terrorism policy and emphasized that on several occasions. And recall them during the interview as his majesty said "One of our top priorities for addressing the 'hearts and minds' question is to tackle the issue of extremist clergy and how they operate inside Muslim communities. We are currently working on setting up pilot projects with our friends," and he continued: "Our challenge is how to get these ideas down to the average Muslim." The Jordanian Prime Minister Dr. Maroof al-Bakhit has expressed the policy and has implemented a comprehensive strategy to combat terrorism both internally and externally, which included several approaches:

- Move forward in Jordan's preemptive war against terrorism and "takfiri culture"
- Revising the anti-terrorism law to make it more specific and setting up a crisis management center.
- In border security it is very important to providing border posts with more staff and modern equipment to detect smugglers and terrorists.
- An interagency effort should be implemented through sharing of all governmental and non governmental organizations efforts and participation to prevent terrorist actions within Jordanian territory.
- The strategy for religious teaching to stress "moderation and tolerance," and the
  Muslim clerics would be "retrained and rehabilitated." Moreover, in order to fight
  terrorism reforming religious teaching and granting greater freedom would be the most
  important mean for that.
- Focus on the economy, encourage investment and support the role of the private sector, decrease the unemployment, and enhance the youth sector as a part of national strategy to stop terrorists, prevent them from recruiting young people, and deny them access to schools and universities
- Create the appropriate conditions as the Prime Minister Al-Bakhit stated "to maintain a
  delicate balance between wider public freedom and security, democracy without
  security would be chaotic and security without democracy would be oppressive and
  restrictive of freedoms."<sup>20</sup>
- The path of democracy, transparency, human rights, good governance, better education, youth development, and civil and political liberties, are all basic

- components of the Hashemite Kingdom's strategy to take Jordan into the future and essential to isolate the terrorists and the extremists.
- Jordan acknowledges that real cooperation with the allies and neighboring countries, and the actual contribution to the international efforts for combating terrorism through exchange of information and data, following-up and updating that information, closer cooperation between the neighboring and friendly intelligence services, controlling the movement of funds, and quickly pass the necessary information will be essential to weaken terrorist organizations not just in Jordan but also in the region and in the world.
- The solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict is a key factor in the fight against terrorism, based on international resolutions, and pushing forward the peace process in the Middle East through the reactivation of the road map, signed in 2003 by Palestinian Authority, Israel, Jordan and the United States of America, The road map is based on the creation of an independent Palestinian state living in peace alongside the State of Israel. There is an absolute need for the establishment of friendly relations between the State of Israel and the neighboring Arab countries. Although various conservative political elements both in Israel and in neighboring Arab states may not wish to recognize it, the presence of extremist Islamic elements such as al-Qaeda in the region are *equally* detrimental to the national security interests of both Israel and its Arab neighbors, including Syria. Such a comprehensive Arab Israeli peace agreement can easily follow the pattern established by Jordan and Egypt, and be along the principles of the 2002 Arab Summit in Beirut, Lebanon.
- Control the security situation in Iraq and support the political efforts, Iraqi police and army, and fighting terrorism, and to seek refuge in the national dialogue between the political parties in Iraq and prevent a slide to civil war in order to establish the Iraqi institutions, infrastructure which definitely will lead to stability and the departure of the coalition forces and ultimately will start building of the Iraqi democratic system.
- The Jordanian Armed Forces (JAF) have played and are playing a significant military role on WOT. The military strategy, for the war against terrorism to includes the provision of special training to the military units to combat terrorism. This was particularly implemented due to the changing nature of the threats, preparing infantry high readiness brigades to be utilized for specialized missions to countering terrorism and for peacekeeping. The JAF are currently establishing a regional counter terrorism training center. The center will also provide training to other security agencies involved

in counter terrorism efforts. There will also be the establishment of a national crisis response and management center which will include besides JAF the public security, civil defense, and other agencies.

#### Amman Message

During an interview with Israel Channel 2's Ehud Yaari on March 7th, 2005, His Majesty King Abdullah said, "The reason for the Amman Message was to identify throughout the Islamic world and also to the West this is what Islam means, this is what our tenants, this is what our beliefs. All those that take the lives of innocent people that live on destruction and hatred they have nothing to do with it. Then in a fact or in a way the word extremist is wrong. You can't be a Muslim extremist or Christian extremist or Jewish extremist because if you are Jewish, Christian or Muslim you believe in the rule of God and that does not allow you to do the crimes that these extremists do. So what we're trying to say is get the moderate majority of Muslims to stand up and say this is what's right and this is what's wrong."<sup>21</sup>

Amman message is based on what the Holy Quran as a constitution of Islam and Muslims. The message declared in the month of Ramadan, in which the Holy Quran was revealed, to issue a statement to the public, to our brethren in Muslim lands and in this whole world. The message has covered the following dimensions:

- How the others views Islam The dangers and challenges the Islamic Nation is facing today at this difficult juncture of its course, some who attack Islam imagine it is their enemy. But it is not their enemy. Others, who claim to belong to Islam, have done gruesome and criminal acts in its name.
- Amman as the capital of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has sought to repel
  assaults on Islam by halting the fallacies against it and promoting true understanding
  of the faith. These efforts are inspired by the religious and historical legacy of the
  Hashemite monarchy, honored as direct descendants of the Prophet, the Messenger
  of God.
- Islam's principles provide common ground among different faiths and peoples. The
  origin of divine religions is one, and Muslims believe in all messengers of God;
  denying the message of any of them is a deviation from Islam. Peoples of different
  faiths can meet together, with respect for others' ideas and faiths.
- Islam honours every human being, without distinction of colour, race or religion; Islam also affirms that Muslims, Islam calls for treating others as one desires to be treated. It

- urges tolerance and forgiveness, qualities that elevate human life, Islam upholds human life.
- There is to be no fighting against non-combatants; no assault on civilians and their properties, on children in their mothers' laps, on students in the schools, on older men and women. To assault the life of a human being is equivalent to assaulting the right to life of all, and this is one of the gravest sins, for life is the basis for the continuation of humanity, Islam respects balance, moderation, and equanimity.
- Islam has given tremendous support to education, and made historic advances in science, scholarship and intellectual life - achievements that empowered a great civilization, in whose achievements non-Muslims had their share, and which became the vehicle to bring knowledge for the West as well.
- Islam calls on Muslims to demonstrate tolerance and delight in human life; it opposes
  extremism, exaggeration, and intransigence. Islam rejects extremism as a deviation
  from true faith and a form of injustice. Furthermore, it is not a trait that characterizes a
  particular nation.
- The foundation of relations between Muslims and others is peace. In Islam, war is only
  justified by necessity and challenges. No fighting is permissible when others pose no
  aggression. Even then, the duty of Muslims is to treat others with justice and
  benevolence.
- Islam guides us to deal with the communication revolution, by utilizing the media in a sound, scientific manner, without weakness or emotional outbursts. Thus, we may respond to accusations stirred by enemies of Islam, while reaching all those who receive the messages of global media.
- The Islamic approach provides a balance in spiritual, economic, and social life; provides for human rights and basic liberties; ensures the individual's right to live in dignity and security, guarantees basic needs, and administers society's affairs in accordance with the principles of justice and consultation.
- The message has put great responsibility on to the scholars of the Muslim Nation. It is
  they who will enlighten our youth the generation that adorns our present age and will
  create and become our future.

#### Recommendations

A Jordanian policy on the war in terrorism is clear, and there is no doubt that Jordan is exerting great efforts at the International, regional and local levels in countering terrorism,

Jordan is using various means and ways to fight a terrorism, in the international fight against terrorism, Jordan believes that the terrorists must be defeat, Jordan enjoys good security environment, despite of the region instability.

- 1. Continue strengthening the Jordanian diplomatic and political support to a just, lasting and comprehensive solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state on the Palestinian territories living in peace side by side with Israel based on the International resolution, and assigned treaties, in order to enable the Palestinian and Israeli people to live in peace on one hand, and deny terrorists from taking this conflict as a pretext for their atrocities. And maintain a strong relations with the U.S is directly in the common interest of the two countries, particularly in the war on terrorism, U.S role as a superpower is essential and central in resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, especially as they sponsor of the peace process and the essential supporting the two-State solution
- 2. Continue to work on the use of a comprehensive strategy to fight terrorism and focus on the terrorist siege thought of reaching out to young people through the curricula of scientific and cultural programs designed to isolate the terrorists and neutralize their methods and routes of access for the community
- 3. World desperately needs to initiate a dialogue among civilizations to highlight the commonalties that increase tolerance, coexistence and interaction, and the United Nations is the appropriate framework for this dialogue. Respect for pluralism is the enrichment factor of the international community.
- 4. Rejection of the use of terrorism in international relations, no matter what the excuses. Jordan will not allow terrorism abducting Islam to hide behind it, creating a confrontation
  between Islam and the world. The war against terrorism is not a religious war, and must not
  lead to a conflict between civilization and other civilizations or between one nation and another
  nation.

War on terrorism needs for mutual cooperation between the countries of the world to eliminate it, coping with terrorism must be comprehensive and uniform in order to be successful.

Combating terrorism is not only the responsibility of governments, but society also has significant role to reject and fighting terrorism, and resolve conflict on the basis of justice is one of the best ways to counter terrorism

#### Conclusion

The terrorism has taken multidimensional threats from the end of the last century. The tragedy of September 11, 2001 had brought about a qualitative leap in the war on terror to the

world. Intellectuals, governments and international and regional institutions and organizations tried to identify a specific definition of terrorism, but it has not been reached yet, which is creating confusion in the various meanings of terrorism. The fight against the conventionally accepted notions of terrorism by non-state groups requires a multidimensional approach. Since terrorism within a nation-state can have its own domestic roots and/or be influenced by transnational parameters, a state faces considerable challenges in facing up to such threats and protecting its citizens. It is obvious that international cooperation is needed in confronting the terrorist threat. Such cooperation is essential in the vital region of the Middle East where the terrorist threat to nation-states by non-state groups is at a very high level and is influenced to a high degree by regional geopolitical developments.

Jordan, which has suffered from terrorism since the beginning of the state, has played a pivotal role in the fight against terrorism not only to fight extremists who kill innocent people but also fighting the terrorist's ideology. Jordan has adopted a clear policy based on detecting and thwarting terrorist attempts before they execute their attacks, through the maintenance of an information network, good relations, joint cooperation and exchange of information at the regional and international level. Jordan had successfully thwarted several attempts over the past few years. For example, Jordan provided assistance that led to the death of al-Zarqawi in Iraq; as well as to the arrest Karboli who killed Jordanian drivers.

The Amman message came to show that Islam has no relations with terrorism and that terrorism does not belong to any religion or race or land, terrorists groups have covered up under the guise of Islam to carry out their attacks against innocent people. The message focused on Islam as a religion of tolerance, justice, equality and mercy. It is a religion that protects the rights of non-Muslims as Muslims, without discrimination.

The fight against terrorism does not mean just the use of military means, but also must be fought within the framework of a comprehensive strategy blocks. This can be accomplished a comprehensive terrorists, access to the youth, and future generations through strategy of economic, religious, educational and social diminutions, that strategy should cover short, medium and long term. The international community specially the U.S as a sponsor of the peace process in the Middle East, and the world's supper power, has to play a large role in the fight against terrorism, particularly in the Middle East through the creation of a solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, in investment and the fight against poverty, to not linking terrorism to religion or belief, and to achieve coordination and exchange of experience and information which helps to contain terrorism and to reduce its impacts and drying its sours gradually.

## **Endnotes**

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> "King Abdullah II: "Iraq is the Battleground – the West against Iran."" *Middle East Quarterly* 12 (Spring 2005) [journal on-line]; available from http://www.meforum.org/article/688# ftn1; Internet; accessed 9 March 2007.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> Takfiri' is the ideology of militants who regard their Muslim opponents as infidels.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> Associated Press, "Jordan PM Vows 'Pre-Emptive' Terror War," *MSNBC News*, 14 December 2005 [newspaper on-line]; available from http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/10468477/from/RS.3/#storyContinued; Internet; accessed 9 March 2007.

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